

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 02717 091331Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 AID-05 DHA-02

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USSS-00 CU-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

EUR-12 /085 W

----- 109515

O R 091259Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8540

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2717

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ES, ASEC

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF KIDNAP VICTIM

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 2657 (B) SAN SALVADOR 2591

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. FRANCISCO "CHICO" DE SOLA, KIDNAPPED ON JUNE 30, WAS RELEASED UNHARMED DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JULY 7. DE SOLA MADE HIS WAY TO HIS FAMILY HOME AND IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE EMERGED SINCE. THE GOES HAS NOT ISSUED ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE RELEASE OR THE EVENTS THAT LED TO IT. NEITHER HAS DE SOLA OR HIS FAMILY. ALTHOUGH NOT CERTAIN, IT APPEARS THAT THE FAMILY ALONE CONDUCTED WHATEVER NEGOTIATIONS TOOK PLACE WITH THE KIDNAPPERS AND PAID AN AS YET UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT OF MONEY (PRESS CONJECTURES RUN FROM 2 MILLION COLONES TO 3 MILLION DOLLARS) TO EFFECT THE RELEASE. THE FAMILY APPEARS TO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO KEEP THE GOVERNMENT OUT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 02717 091331Z

OF THE MATTER, AT LEASE UNTIL DE SOLA WAS RETURNED.

2. SHORTLY AFTER DE SOLA'S RELEASE, LOCAL NEWSPAPERS RECEIVED A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE PREOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (EJERCITO REVOLUCIONARIO DEL PUEBLE - ERP) WHICH CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THE OPERATION. FYI THE ERP IS, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, A SAMLL POSSIBLY 20-30 ACTIVIST MEMBERS, AND ILL-DEFINED ORGANIZATION WITH A KNOWN HISTORY GOING BACK TO A NOV. 1973 ROBBERY OF ARMS FROM A SAN SALVADOR STORE. ITS MEMBERSHIP UNKNOWN BUT IS THOUGHT TO OVERLAP WITH OTHER REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS, AND MIGHT BE IDENTICAL WITH THE FPL). A PICTURE ACCOMPANIED THE NOTE SHOWING DE SOLA UNDER AN ERP BANNER OF ITS INITIALS AND STAR. THE COMMUNIZUE SAID DE SOLA WAS HELD IN A "PEOPLE'S JAIL" AND RELEASED AFTER HIS FAMILY PAID A "SUBSTANTIAL SUM OF MONEY" AS A "WAR TAX" TO HELP FINANCE THE REVOLUTION. DE SOLA WAS CHARACTERIED AS THE "KING OF THE SALVADORAN OLIGARCHY".

3. COMMENT - IF IT IS A POLITICALLY MOTIVATED KIDNAPPING, THE DE SOLA CASE HAS A NUMBER OF UNUSUAL FEATURES. FIRST, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THERE WERE NO POLITICAL CONDITIONS TO THE RELEASE, NO EFFORT TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT OR FORCE IT TO BOW TO UNPLEASANT DEMANDS. SIMILARLY, THE KIDNAP GROUP APPARENTLY DID NOT INSIST ON ACCESS TO THE MEDIA TO PROCLAIM ITS POLITICAL PLATFORM OR OTHERWISE CHAMPION ITS CAUSE. FROM WHAT IS KNOWN AT THIS TIME, THOSE WHO CARRIED OUT THE KIDNAPPING WERE WILLING TO DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE FAMILY, AND ACCEPT MONEY, ALBEIT A LARGE AMOUNT, IN EXCHNAGE FOR DE SOLA.

4. IN THE ATMOSPHERE GENVERATED BY THIS EVENT, AND APPREHENSION THAT DISRUPTION OF THE MISS UNIVERSE PAGEANT MIGHT BE USED BY ENEMIES OF THE REGIME TO DISCREDIT IT, OTHER EVENTS ARE BEING LINKED WITH THE DE SOLA CASE TO PROVE A "TERRORIST THREAT". LAST FRIDAY ANOTHER LEADING BUSINESSMAN, OSCAR SACA, WAS WOUNDED DURING AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP HIM BY 4-6 MACHINE-GUN CARRYING ASSAILANTS. THAT SAME DAY, SEVERAL ASSAULTS ON BUSINESSES AND FACTORIES WERE REPORTED. THE GOES IS THOUGHT TO HAVE PICKED UP SOME PERSONS IT SUSPECTS HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THESE CRIMES. ON WHAT BASIS WE DO NOT KNOW. IT IS HANDLING THESE ARRESTS QUIETLY, APPARENTLY NOT WANTING TO DISRUPT THE MISS UNIVERSE CONTEST. SECURITY MEASURES AT THE PAGEANT ITSELF ARE HEAVY.

CAMPBELL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 02717 091331Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANSAS02717
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750236-0857
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750772/aaaacmoq.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SAN SALVADOR 2657, 75 SAN SALVADOR 2591
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELEASE OF KIDNAP VICTIM
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ASEC, ES, (DE SOLA, FRANCISCO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006